

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph on Page 1, lines 5 - 7 with the following marked-up replacement paragraph:

-- The present invention is related to commonly-assigned, co-pending U. S. Patent Application 10/_____, which Application 10/655,526, which is titled "Managing Status Information for Instant Messaging Users" and which was filed concurrently herewith and is hereby incorporated by reference. --

Please replace the paragraph on Page 21, lines 7 - 16 with the following marked-up replacement paragraph:

-- Commonly-assigned, co-pending U. S. Patent Application 10/235,324 (attorney docket RSW920020085US1, filed 9/5/2002), titled "Annotating and Routing Message Content", discloses techniques whereby programmatic determinations are made for routing instant messages. For example, user preferences may be consulted to determine whether a particular user approves of routing messages from a current IM session to other parties. The disclosed techniques may use a rule-based approach ~~might be used~~, if desired, to provide further controls over this programmatic determination (e.g., allowing factors such as the identification of the IM session partner, and perhaps keywords from the message and/or annotation, to be used when making the determination). Or, a partner in the IM session might be queried to determine whether routing the annotated message is acceptable. --

Please replace the paragraph that begins on Page 21, line 17 and carries over to Page 22, line 12

with the following marked-up replacement paragraph:

-- Commonly-assigned, co-pending U. S. Patent Application 10/119,519 (attorney docket RSW920010234US1, filed 4/10/2002; now U. S. Patent 6,731,323), titled "Media-Enhanced Greetings and/or Responses in Communication Systems", discloses using information regarding a message initiator (or a caller, in a voice mail system) and other sources of state information about the intended message recipient (or called party), in addition to information stored in an electronic calendar, when selecting media file(s) to be included in a programmatically-generated response message (or greeting for a voice caller). For example, suppose a user Sam has his instant messaging buddy list arranged into categories including "friends" and "customers". Using techniques of this commonly-assigned invention, Sam may specify that when his electronic calendar shows an "I'm sick" status, instant messaging participants identified in the "friends" category receive a "bio-hazard" icon in response to sending him an instant message while participants identified in the "customers" category receive an "out of office" icon. The icon might be attached to a text message that is generated as a response to the original message sender, or the icon might be sent without an accompanying message. In either case, this commonly-assigned invention allows IMS users to add personalization to a message that is automatically sent to people attempting to contact the user. --

Please replace the paragraph that begins on Page 22, line 13 and carries over to Page 23, line 2 with the following marked-up replacement paragraph:

-- This commonly-assigned invention also discloses enabling an IM user to hover the cursor of his computing device over an identifier of someone on his buddy list, whereby an icon

corresponding to that person's current status may then be displayed for the hover message. This commonly-assigned invention also discloses enabling IM users to manually trigger the sending of status information to other IM users. For example, an IM session participant may be at work, and may choose to suspend an IM session when his manager enters his office. The participant might indicate this to [[his]] the other session participant by clicking on an icon or menu item (or some other mechanism) that would cause an icon (e.g., a stop sign) to be sent to the other session participant. This may optionally cause the IM session to be temporarily suspended. --

Please replace the paragraph on Page 23, lines 3 - 10 with the following marked-up replacement paragraph:

-- Commonly-assigned, co-pending U. S. Patent Application 09/941,045 (now U. S. Patent 7,035,865), titled "Calendar-Enhanced Awareness for Instant Messaging Systems and Electronic Status Boards", discloses techniques for automating a user's instant messaging status, based on information stored in the user's electronic calendaring system. Additionally, this commonly-assigned invention discloses enhancements to an advanced calendaring system whereby instant messaging systems (and electronic status boards) are preemptively notified of status changes for a defined set of users. A retry/recovery technique is disclosed, which may be used (for example) if updated information is expected but not received. --